JAN 2 2 2003 &

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: D. Shah et al.

Serial No.: 09/891,983

Filed: June 26, 2001

For: METHODS FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF HCV ANTIGENS AND HCV ANTIBODIES

Case No.: 6821.US.01

Examiner: Wortman, D.

Group Art Unit: 1648

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit: 1-15-03

Kimberly A. Iorio

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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PATENT

JAN 2 4 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 2, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 14, line 25 - page 15, line 18, with the following:

The antibodies which are coated on the solid phase as well as the "second antibody" may be, as noted above, monoclonal antibodies or polyclonal antibodies. For example, if one chooses to utilize monoclonal antibodies, they may be selected from 13-959-270, 14-1269-281, 14-1287-252, 14-153-234, 14-153-462, 14-1705-225, 14-1708-269, 14-1708-403, 14-178-125, 14-188-104, 14-283-112, 14-635-225, 14-726-217, 14-886-216, 14-947-104 and 14-945-218. The





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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

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1-15-03

Kimberly A. Ionio

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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JAN 2 4 3003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above entitled METHODS FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS DETECTION OF HCV ANTIGENS AND HCV ANTIBODIES are the following:

- 1. Amendment and Response (21 pages);
- 2. References as cited in Amendment and Response (2 references);
- 3. Request for Extension of Time (1 page) in duplicate; and
- 4. Return Receipt Postcard.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional Filing Fees required under 37 CFR §1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment had not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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ABBOTT LABORATORIES

Telephone: (847) 935-1729 Facsimile: (847) 938-2623 Cheryl L. Becker

D. Shah, et al.

Registration No. 35,441 Attorney for Applicants

Respectfully submitted,